In the claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously amended)

A drilling fluid comprising

water as base component;

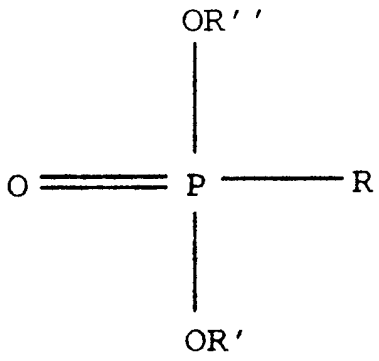
a viscosifying agent to increase the viscosity of the fluid;

a filtrate reducing agent;

a weighting agent to adjust the density of the fluid;

a shale swelling inhibition agent comprising phosphate or silicate based compounds; and

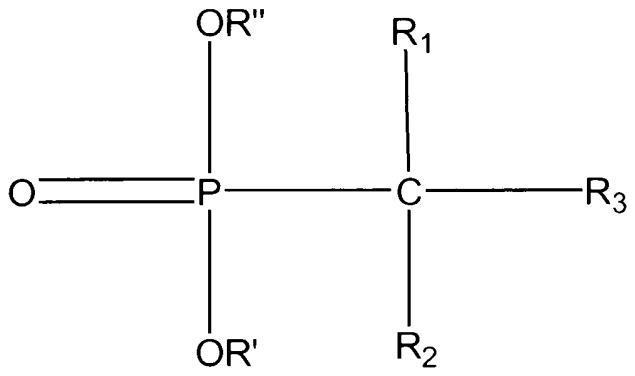
an additive for a drilling fluid, consisting of a compound in accordance with the formula



wherein R, R' and R" are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

10. The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein R, R' and R'' are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C or O.

11. The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive consists of a compound in accordance with the formula



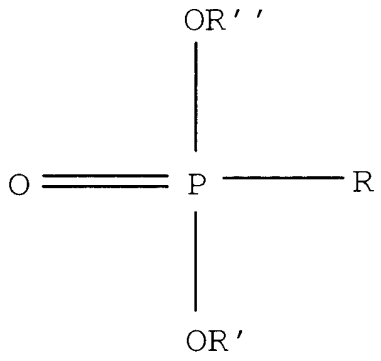
wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

12. The drilling fluid of claim 11, wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C or O.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

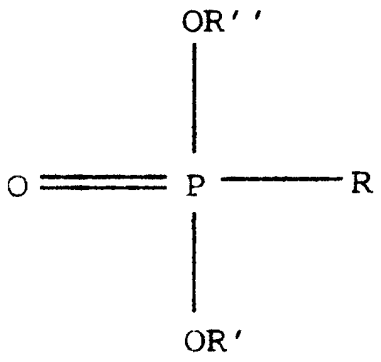
15. (Previously amended) A method of preventing accretion of cuttings in a borehole, said method comprising the step of preparing a drilling fluid comprising a viscosifying agent to increase the viscosity of the fluid, a filtrate reducing agent, a weighting agent to adjust the density of the fluid, a shale swelling inhibition agent comprising phosphate or silicate based compounds and an additive for a drilling fluid, consisting of a compound in accordance with the formula



wherein R, R' and R" are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

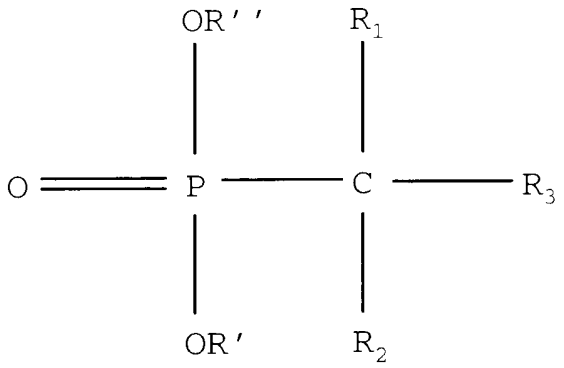
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the additive is added in a concentration of up to about 10% weight by volume of the drilling fluid.

17. (Currently amended) A drilling fluid being water-based and having an inhibitive component to reduce the hydration of shale further comprising an additive in accordance with the formula



where R, R' and R" are groups exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms, for reducing cuttings accretion and bit balling, wherein said additive is based on a phosphor derivative of the succinic acid.

18. (Previously amended) The drilling fluid of claim 17, comprising an additive in accordance with the formula



where R_1, R_2 and R_3 are groups exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 17, wherein the additive is based on a short chain phosphorylated hydrocarbon.

21. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 17, comprising the additive in a concentration of up to about 10% weight by volume.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 17, being a phosphate-based drilling fluid.

24. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 21, being a silicate-based drilling fluid.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive is based on a phosphor derivative of the succinic acid.

27. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive is based on a short phosphorylated hydrocarbon.

28. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 9, comprising the additive in a concentration of up to about 10% weight by volume.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the shale swelling inhibition agent comprises phosphate based compounds.

31. (Previously added) The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the shale swelling inhibition agent comprises silicate based compounds.